

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
CONFERENCE ROOM 3
WEDNESDAY MAY 5, 2010
7:00 P.M.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIRMAN THOMAS SHIELDS
COMMISSIONER THOMAS BOWEN
COMMISSIONER KEVIN CHICK
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL GERHART
COMMISSIONER DAVID MARSDEN
COMMISSIONER MARY NIRO
COMMISSIONER GREG POLK
COMMISSIONER FERNANDO ROSA
COMMISSIONER DANA WOODS

COMMISSIONER MICHAEL LONG, ABSENT
COMMISSIONER JAMES MAROCCHINI

PRESENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND
TOWN PLANNER ED MEEHAN

II. MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 7, 2010

Commissioner Chick made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held April 7, 2010. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Marsden reported that he attended the opening of Chef's Doghouse, on Willard Avenue, a very nice clean facility with excellent cuisine.

Commissioner Niro noted that Equity 6 are the new owners of 705 North Mountain Road.

Commissioner Polk remarked that business owners on Main Street are very happy with the parking lot being completed and that they should be encouraged to park there instead of in front of their businesses.

Chairman Shields observed that Shepherd's Steel and International Bridge are closing their businesses, along with Internal Contracting (ICS) has closed.

B. NATIONAL WELDING PROJECT

Town Planner Ed Meehan reported that there has been no reply as yet to the town's application for \$1,300,000.00 submitted to DECD, March 1, 2010. With this funding the building would be dismantled leaving the large pieces of equipment to be sold, being handled by Jeff Baron, our Town's business manager. Mr. Meehan noted that this will coincide with the federal transit announcements on the busway project with a view to late summer for contracts to be in place.

C. NEWINGTON OPEN BUSINESS BREAKFAST MAY 21, 2010 – INDIAN HILL COUNTRY CLUB

Mr. Meehan announced that the invitation has been prepared with copies distributed to the commissioners. Approximately two hundred and fifty people will be invited to attend this event, sponsored by Northeast Utilities.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. STATUS OF MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – PHASES 1 AND 11

Mr. Meehan reported that change order Phase II will be issued and the project engineer is preparing it for the contractor to pick up that section of the parking lot, to complete the final pavement course on the west side and also touch up the landscaping including the dumpster enclosure. Landscaping and maintenance will be addressed along with brick pavers installed next to Steve's Restaurant. Drainage improvements are being explored on the east side with trees posted and the contractor has a September 1, 2010 completion date.

Commissioner Polk brought attention to the gate mechanism on the dumpster, which seems to be breaking and needs repair. Mr. Meehan also reported that the Hidden Vine drainage connection has been favorably resolved.

B. STATUS OF MARKET SQUARE STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Chairman Shields reported that the RFP's have been sent out and are due back on May 13, 2010 with more information available at our next meeting.

C. DRAFT #3 MARCH 24, 2010 PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Chairman Shields summarized that all of the deliberations and changes have been presented to the Town council and there is still time to provide feedback and comments.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

VII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Polk noted that Cugino's Restaurant has an offer to sell his business on Main Street in Newington.

Commissioner Rosa made a point of information that he manages a number of loan programs for the Greater Hartford area which are available to small businesses, known as the Greater Hartford Business Development Center, established 1975.

Mr. Meehan also pointed out that the handout "Economic Condition and Outlook" is a good summary of the Town's financial status and development projects.

Commissioner Polk announced that the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Spring Car Show on June 10, 2010, Thursday, 5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Commissioner Bowen will make an announcement on his T.V. show.

Mr. Meehan reported that the Farmer's Market will begin its season on June 13, 2010.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary